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**From:** Bittleman, Sarah  
**Sent:** Mon 7/29/2013 5:51:35 PM  
**Subject:** FW: Agriculture FACA help  
[FRRCC FINAL REPORT December 2011.pdf](#)  
[FRRCC Report Transmittal Letter 2011.pdf](#)

RAs – I wanted to make sure you had this as well. Your ag advisors either have this or will have this. Any thoughts you all have are welcomed and the ag advisors are all invited to participate in the August 8<sup>th</sup> meeting as well. Thanks. Sb

Sarah Bittleman

Agriculture Counselor to the Administrator

202 564 4624 direct

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**From:** Bittleman, Sarah  
**Sent:** Monday, July 29, 2013 12:59 PM  
**To:** Giles-AA, Cynthia; Stoner, Nancy; Jones, Jim; McCabe, Janet; Stanislaus, Mathy; Garbow, Avi; Kadeli, Lek; Bond, Brian  
**Cc:** KeyesFleming, Gwen; Feldt, Lisa; Ganesan, Arvin; Vaught, Laura; Chester, Steven; Gilinsky, Ellen; Kopocis, Ken  
**Subject:** Agriculture FACA help

AAs and Friends: Next Thursday, August 8, is the first official meeting of the Farm, Ranch, and Rural Community FACA for this second Administration. The report the Committee did for EPA in December 2011 is attached, along with the transmittal letter. The first 11 pages are the Executive Summary.

The recommendations from the Report are summarized below.

It would be super helpful if you could designate someone from your team to meet with me sometime in the coming week to go over the recommendations. Please send the name of that person to me as soon as you can.

Many of them we are already implementing but there may be more to do. I'd like to give the Committee an update on the recommendations and I'd like your designated person to participate in the meeting which will be happening by phone.

Thanks for your attention to this.

Best – Sarah Bittleman

Sarah Bittleman

Agriculture Counselor to the Administrator

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### **Summary of Recommendations**

The recommendations summarized below are discussed in more detail later in the Executive Summary.

EPA should ensure that nutrient criteria and new suspended and bedded sediments (SABS) criteria developed by states or, where appropriate, by EPA are science-based and rely upon a clear cause-effect relationship. EPA should use adaptive management to inform the ways in which nutrients and SABS can be managed most effectively to reduce off-site movement into waterways.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Discussions in Committee deliberations of adaptive management focused on better use of data and information to evaluate current management practices and strategies and to improve implementation at the farm and field level.

EPA should always use the EPA Guidelines for Preparing Economic Analyses, and ensure that they are updated as appropriate.

EPA should develop a coordinated public engagement plan to exchange information on agricultural and environmental issues.

EPA should ensure it has adequate staff with resources to work effectively in the field with agriculture on environmental issues, specifically Regional Agricultural Advisors, Strategic Agricultural Initiative-like specialists, and EPA-Land Grant University liaison positions in all EPA Regions.

EPA should work proactively with agriculture to address water quality issues early and often, and continue to encourage and support state certainty programs, especially with respect to stewardship.

EPA should continue to improve the effectiveness and reach of currently available resources by leveraging resources with others, including State and Federal conservation programs, Section 319 funds, USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) opportunities, state revolving funds, private foundation funds, and private markets.

EPA should enable and provide resources for a multi-entity, multi-disciplinary partnership to develop and use tools and protocols for improved measurement, documentation, and verification of water quality benefits from agricultural practices and

strategies, and to improve the use of resources for the development and delivery of critical best management practices.

EPA should convene, support, and facilitate a multi-entity, multi-disciplinary partnership to evaluate and advance more effective approaches to delivering real improvements to nutrient management and other critical conservation practice efforts, and to advance more effective use of federal and state resources invested in conservation programs.